The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) issued a final rule on January 16, 2014 to ensure that Medicaid’s home and community-based services (HCBS) programs provide full access to the benefits of community living and offer services in the most integrated settings.

Pursuant to 42 CFR §441.301(c)(4)(5) and 42 CFR §441.710(a)(1)(2), the final rule gives states until March 17, 2015 to submit a Statewide Transition Plan (Plan) and hold a 30-day public comment period as part of the state’s compliance with the HCBS setting requirements. The 30-day public comment period is from January 26-February 26, 2015. New Jersey’s Plan outlines the steps that it needs to take to come into full compliance by March 17, 2019 for its New Jersey 1115 Comprehensive Waiver Demonstration and the 1915 (c) Community Care Waiver.

The draft Plan for public comment is posted on the DHS' website at [www.state.nj.us/humanservices/dmahs/info/](http://www.state.nj.us/humanservices/dmahs/info/) along with other related information. Comments on the Plan should be submitted in writing to mahs.hcbs@dhs.state.nj.us or to HCBS Rules in care of Deputy Commissioner Lowell Arye, NJ Department of Human Services, P.O. Box 700, Trenton, NJ 08625-0700.

The State will hold input sessions for the public on the following dates and locations:

- **Wednesday, February 4, 2015**
  10:00 a.m. to noon
  NJ Department of Human Services
  222 South Warren Street
  Trenton, NJ 08625

- **Thursday, February 19, 2015**
  10:00 a.m. to noon
  DCF Training Facility
  30 Van Dyke Avenue
  New Brunswick, NJ 08901

Individuals interested in attending and or providing written testimony or letters should register with the DHS by calling Diane Flynn at 609.689.6714 or emailing to Diane.Flynn@dhs.state.nj.us. Testimony at the hearings will be limited to three minutes per speaker and only one speaker per organization will be allowed due to time constraints. Special accommodations can be provided upon request.